

## ARTICLE V

### **MEMBERS**

The MHASC shall follow the guidelines set forth in the Twelve Concepts for NA Service and A Guide To Local Service, including, but not limited to, the guidelines for what constitutes a voting and a non-voting member.

The MHASC is comprised of the Administrative Committee, Subcommittee Chairs, GSR's and GSR Alternates. The MHASC has two (2) types of members: ***Decision Makers and Participating Members***.

#### ***Decision Makers***

A ***Decision Maker*** shall be one (1) GSR per group, Chairs of Subcommittees and the Administrative Committee.

#### ***Participating Members***

A ***Participating Member*** would include GSRA's (if the GSR is present), members of a Subcommittee, or other attending persons.

## ARTICLE VII

### **ELECTIONS**

Nominations for all elected positions except the CRCNA Liaison and one RCM will be accepted in May and elections for those positions will be held in June. The CRCNA Liaison nomination will occur in December with the election of that position in January. One RCM position becomes available per year in order to stagger the experience.

Only GSR's present will vote at all MHASC elections.

An election to fill a vacancy in an elected position shall occur within two (2) meetings after the vacancy occurs. Information to fill the vacancy shall be provided to the GSR's for announcement at their groups.

#### **Nominations**

***Any member of NA can be nominated but the nomination must be seconded by a Decision Maker of the MHASC. All nominees must be present at both the meeting at which they are nominated and the meeting in which the vote is taken to fill the position. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions and/or voice their objections (if any) concerning any nominee, while the nominee is present.***

#### **Elections**

- 1. A vote will be taken for all elected positions regardless of the number of nominees.***
- 2. If there is only one nominee for a position after nominations have been closed, the election is known as a vote of acclamation and will be indicated as such by the Chairperson. The nominee must then receive 2/3rds of the participating votes to be elected. If the nominee fails to receive 2/3rds then nominations will be reopened.***

3. *While the voting process is taking place the nominees should leave the room.*
4. *All Decision Makers (except MHASC Chair) in attendance may cast one vote.*
5. *The Chairperson will ask who is in favor of the first candidate nominated, then the second, and so on. All votes for a candidate will be counted before moving on to the next one.*
6. *There are no votes "against" a candidate. The only votes that will be tallied are those in favor of the candidate and those abstaining from the vote.*
7. *The Chairperson will vote only when a vote total is tied.*
8. *The final vote totals will NOT be reflected in the minutes.*

## ARTICLE VIII

### MOTIONS AND VOTING PROCEDURES:

~~Quorum is comprised of 50% of the average number of GSR's attending the MHASC over the past three months.~~

A majority vote will be used for Elections. *All other proposals are decided through Consensus-Based Decision Making.*

Any NA member is welcome to attend the MHASC, introduce proposals and participate in discussion. ~~A MHASC GSR must second a motion or the motion dies (does this occur in CBDM?)~~

~~Motions for Policy Changes require a 2/3 majority vote of all GSR's present for passage.~~

### Consensus-Based Decision Making

*The use of Consensus-Based Decision Making admittedly takes longer to achieve an outcome to an issue, called a proposal. But, the results are understood by all in attendance at a more significant level of comprehension. In addition, any proposal can be easily changed or modified as discussion progresses. Making a motion, requiring a second and so forth are no longer needed. Decision Makers ~~Trusted servants~~ become a single point of accountability to those that they represent (see 12 Concepts of NA Service). ~~decision-making and thus accountable to their Areas.~~*

### Consensus-Based Decision Making Process

1. *Bring proposals to the MHASC. Formulate clear proposals in advance with as much communication and collaboration as possible to facilitate the consensus decision process. ~~Facilitator presents the proposal to the MHASC (analogous to the motion in a Robert's Rules process).~~*
2. *Maker of the proposal speaks first to the intent.*
3. *Open up the floor first for clarifying questions about the proposal (not a debate on the merits but a brief session to be sure everyone understands the proposal).*
4. *Facilitator asks whether anyone has reservations about the proposal. These are heard and they may be answered or the proposal may be ~~tweaked~~ modified in a manner similar to the "friendly amendment" process in Robert's Rules.*
5. *Once all reservations have been heard and answered in this way, Facilitator asks, "Do we have consensus?" Participants respond in one of four ways:*
  - a. *Assent. This means that the ~~addict~~ Decision Maker supports the proposal, all things considered. It may not mean that the ~~addict~~ Decision Maker is in agreement with every*

*aspect, but that the Decision Maker ~~addiet~~ has heard the discussion and has had a chance to participate in the process of finalizing the proposal, and is prepared to support the final proposal. Assent is signified by remaining silent.*

- b. Assent with Reservations. This option is not materially different from the Assent option but is included as a way of giving Decision Makers a place to stand when they do not want to object more strongly, but they do want to note that they have reservations. Assent with Reservations is done by the ~~addiet~~ Decision Maker raising their hand and simply saying when the facilitator calls on them, "Assent with Reservations." The assumption is that the reservations have been heard already, and the ~~addiet~~ Decision Maker is simply noting that they can support the proposal and continue to have these reservations.*
- c. Stand Aside. A common misconception about the Stand Aside option is that it is similar to an abstention. It is not. It is more accurate to say it is similar to a "no" vote. It is a statement that the ~~addiet~~ Decision Maker does not support the proposal, but the ~~addiet's~~ Decision Maker's objection is not of the nature or the severity to warrant a block. Should the number of Decision Makers opting to be Stand Asides reach 45% 15% or more, this will indicate a consensus too weak to adopt the proposal. The proposal is then either dropped or delegated to the maker of the proposal or an Ad Hoc Committee for reworking.*
- d. Block. This option is also commonly misunderstood. Given that a proposal can be defeated by a sufficient number of Stand Asides, the Block should be an extremely rare step taken only when a participant honestly believes that one of the Traditions or Concepts is directly violated by this proposal. ~~or some very fundamental moral position of the participant is violated.~~ A Decision Maker ~~addiet~~ who blocks must be able to articulate which Tradition or Concept or Spiritual principle fundamental to NA is violated by the specific proposal.*

~~Motions are to be submitted in writing. Anyone can make a motion but a MHASC GSR must second it.~~

~~The Administrative Committee, Sub-Committees and the MHASC GSR's vote on New Business and Disbursements. GSR's only vote on Old Business and Elections.~~

~~There are two types of decision making tools the MHASC will use: Consensus Based Decision Making and Roberts Rules of Order.~~

~~Consensus Based Decision Making shall be used for all general motions. Roberts Rules of Order will be used for Elections, Disbursements, Policy Changes and general motions that the body cannot come to consensus on.~~

~~Consensus Based Decision Making: The Chair will ask if there is anyone who is in disagreement with the motion presented. If less than 10% of the assembled voting members disagree, the motion will pass with consensus. If 10% to 25% of the assembled voting members disagree then the Chair will ask if the groups in disagreement would like to share their reason. The Chair will then ask the maker of the motion to clarify, reconsider or amend the motion in order for consensus to be achieved. The discussion time limit for each motion will be no more than ½ hour in length. The Chair will ask once more if there are any further disagreements. If 10% or more are still in disagreement the voting process will convert to Roberts Rules of Order. If 25% or more of the assembled voting members disagree upon the presentation of the motion, the motion dies.~~